



# hearing **GOD'S VOICE**

A 5-day Plan



# HEARING GOD'S VOICE

## a five-day plan

Has your walk with God ever felt one-sided? Silent? If you've struggled to hear God's voice, or if you feel like you've never heard his voice, you are not alone. In this five-day reading plan, we explore the profound truth that God desires to communicate with you, personally. Consider opening your heart, listening intently, and embracing the joy of continual conversation with the God who knows and loves you.



This reading plan is based on a recent series on  
*The Exploring More Podcast*  
with Michael Thompson.

## **Day 1: Is Hearing from God for Everyone?**

### **Scripture:**

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

### **Devotional:**

There is no greater gift than to hear the voice of God. How does that statement make you feel? Does it strike a chord of excitement in your heart? Does it make you roll your eyes? Does it fill you with the longing of unmet desire?

From the beginning of creation, when God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the garden, to the prophets of old, and now to us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the presence and voice of God have been accompanied with powerful deeds and intense affection. Yet, for many, the idea of hearing from God feels distant, unclear, or unattainable. Maybe even undesirable.

In this reading plan, we will explore this very topic—hearing from God. It will be a journey to peel back misconceptions, confront the enemy's attempts to distort the truth, and reclaim the truth that God is speaking, and we can hear him.

To recover the truth will require courage and vulnerability. We will have to look deep in our hearts, and be willing to be honest with ourselves. Starting with the question, do you believe God wants to speak to you?

One of the greatest deceptions of the enemy is to convince us that hearing from God is reserved for the “spiritually elite.” But Scripture makes it clear: All those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God (Romans 8:14). If you are a Christ-follower, you have the very Spirit of God in you and around you. This is not a privilege for the few, but a promise for all God's sons and daughters.

Yet, even knowing this truth, we often struggle. Why? For one thing, we live in a world that is loud—filled with distractions, doubts, and distorted expectations. There is internal noise to contend with too. Many people have been wounded by religious environments where hearing from God was used as a weapon rather than a gift; others have been taught that once God was done writing the Bible, he went silent,

missing the relational intimacy of his ongoing voice in our daily lives. To hear God's voice, we are going to have to remove anything that's blocking the way.

God longs for us to hear him. Not just to complete a task or to scold us or give us inner peace about an upcoming decision, but as a relationship to cultivate. As Jesus told His disciples, "It is good that I go, for I will send you a better guide" (John 16:7, paraphrased). Jesus makes it clear that being in the presence of the Holy Spirit is even better than being face-to-face with the Son of God himself. Does that sound like your experience? And yet, Jesus said it. It must be true. The Holy Spirit now dwells within us, leading, guiding, and speaking—if we are willing to tune in.

The truth is God's voice is not distant; it is personal, life-giving, and available. He speaks through his Word, his Spirit, creation, through the words of others, and even the still small whispers in our hearts. The real question is, are we listening? Do we even know how?

**As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:**

*Father, what do I believe in my heart about your desire and ability to speak to me?  
What do I believe in my heart about my desire and ability to hear from you?*

*Jesus, you said that the Holy Spirit is a "better guide." In what ways have I missed out on this truth?*

*Holy Spirit, would help me to be aware of your presence and to discern the various ways that you speak to my heart?*



## Day 2: An Invitation to Intimacy

### Scripture:

Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

James 4:8 Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

### Devotional:

Hearing from God is not a rare or exclusive experience meant for only the "super holy." It is a gift and invitation available to everyone. God longs to speak to us, and communicating with us is central to the intimate relationship he desires to share with us. As we draw near to him, he draws near to us. The invitation is to engage in a heart-to-heart, personal conversation with the One who wonderfully and uniquely knit us together.

However, hearing from God isn't always straightforward. We live in a world full of distractions, both internal and external, that can make it difficult to discern his voice. Our own fears, doubts, and misconceptions about God's nature can create barriers to true intimacy. We may carry the belief that God is scornfully angry with us or that we are not worthy of his attention. But God is never distant, and even his anger is gentle and kind. His voice is always available, always loving, and always calling us closer.

God's voice is personal and transformative. He doesn't always communicate the same way to every person. He wants to speak to you in ways through which your heart can experience his love—because he knows you. He knows your love language. He doesn't want a relationship with you just because you're a person. He wants an intimate friendship with you because you are uniquely you, the only you he made.

When God speaks to you, he may have something encouraging to say to your heart. He may have an answer to a direct question, or give you guidance on a choice you have to make. He may give you a word that he wants you to deliver to someone else. He may give you correction, or conviction, or reveal something to you that he wants to change and restore. Because, just like any other friend, God doesn't want to relive the same conversation over and over again with you. He

cares for you, he wants what is best for you, and though his voice may not always be what you were expecting or hoping to hear, it does always point us back to his love and purpose for our lives.

Today, take time to listen. Open your heart and mind to God. Ask him to reveal himself to you in new ways. Trust that he desires to communicate with you and that his voice is already speaking.

**As you ponder this with God today, consider asking Him:**

*Father, how have I experienced your voice in my life? How have I responded to your invitations to hear from you?*

*Jesus, in what ways do you speak to my heart that are uniquely my own?*

*Holy Spirit, help me be attuned to your voice today amidst the noise and distractions. What do you want to say to me today?*

## Day 3: Overcoming Barriers to Hearing from God

### Scripture:

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:12-13 Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

### Devotional:

On Day 1, we discovered that hearing from God is a gift available to all who are willing to listen. Yet, many of us struggle to hear his voice. Whether due to distractions, false beliefs about God's character, unmet needs, or past hurts, something gets in the way. Like spiritual noise cancelling ear muffs, these barriers can hinder our ability to experience the deep intimacy with God that he desires for us. As we embark on the journey of hearing from God, we must first acknowledge and address these obstacles with openness and vulnerability.

One of the foremost challenges is that many people are simply distracted. Most of us spend SO much of our time on our phones, on our laptops, on Zoom calls, listening to music or podcasts, finding the next binge-worthy show ... it's easy to overlook God's still small voice. All this external noise can be good and necessary, but it also trains our brains and our bodies to be unable to handle stillness, solitude, and quiet. It can drown out the voice of God, leaving us feeling distant from his presence.

In order to hear God's voice, sometimes we need to remove the external noise. Try finding a quiet place, as quiet as possible: in the woods or in a library, maybe the corner of a room, even a closet if need be. These sanctuaries can be an important way to position yourself. Ask God questions and invite him to speak, and then just *listen*. When you get distracted and pulled away, just come back, recalibrate, and lean in again.

Another significant barrier may be false beliefs about God's character. Past experiences, wounds, and disappointments may have shaped our perception of God, causing us to doubt his nature or question his intentions. Perhaps we've experienced rejection, pain, or neglect in the past, leading us to falsely believe that God is distant or untrustworthy. But the truth is that God is always good, and his desire is to bring healing to our hearts, drawing us near to him in intimate connection.

This internal noise can be more challenging to overcome. We will have to unlearn some things we've picked up along the way, but it's not always as easy as simply choosing to believe the truth. We may need to be willing to address the wounds of our past and examine how they have impacted who we are today. We can invite God to reveal to us the source of what's in the way and then invite him to bring healing to those parts of our heart. This requires vulnerability and courage—an openness to ask God what is standing in the way of our connection with him and a willingness to listen to his answers.

It's through God's guidance and healing that we can begin to shed these barriers and remove the metaphorical earmuffs. As we seek God's help in healing our wounds, we discover that he is always ready to restore us, to remove the obstacles in our hearts so that we can experience true community with him.

**As you ponder this with God today, consider asking Him:**

*Father, what past wounds or experiences have shaped my beliefs and kept me from hearing you clearly?*

*Jesus, what barriers are standing in the way of our relationship? What false beliefs do I need to release or wounds do I need to heal from in order to hear you more clearly?*

*Holy Spirit, help me recognize the areas where I've doubted God's goodness. Teach me to trust and listen more intently.*

## Day 4: Developing the Ability to Hear God's Voice

### Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

### Devotional:

Once we have removed any barriers to hearing God's voice, it is time to ask how we can know and discern God's voice. After all, what does God's voice even sound like?

It's easy to expect an audible voice or a dramatic event, but the truth is, God speaks in many creative ways. One of the keys to living in ongoing communication with God is to cultivate a sense of curiosity and expectation when it comes to hearing from him. When we ask God to speak, we must do so with a posture of belief—that he is indeed speaking to us and that his words are for our good. It's about being willing to listen, even when his voice comes in unexpected forms. Sometimes, God speaks through quiet moments in prayer, other times through songs or the words of a friend. God's voice can be heard through inner promptings, dreams, a gentle whisper in your heart, even through the natural world around us—a bluebird perched on the birdfeeder in the sunrise, or a heart shaped cloud, or the grandeur of the open ocean. The important thing is to remain open to the many ways God communicates with us.

As we learn to discern his voice, it's also crucial to recognize that not all thoughts are our own. There are external voices—both from God and the enemy—that seek to influence us. But God's voice is always one of peace, clarity, and truth. The enemy may distort, confuse, and lead us away from God's will, but when we learn to discern, we can recognize God's voice amidst the noise.

God does not choose to offer love and guidance only in the context of church services or dramatic moments. His words are woven into the very fabric of our daily lives. Whether through nature, the people around us, or even in our inner



impressions and our dreams, God is actively speaking to us. Our invitation is to be open to hearing from him. The more we develop our ability to listen, the more we will experience his tender care and guidance.

**As you ponder this with God today, consider asking Him:**

*Father, in what ways have I been missing your voice? How can I create space to listen more attentively?*

*Jesus, help me to trust that you want to speak to me, and give me the discernment to recognize your voice in unexpected places.*

*Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the beauty and messages in the world around me. Let me see your presence in every detail.*

## Day 5: Listening for God's Voice in Everyday Life

### Scripture:

1 Kings 19:12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

1 Peter 4:7 Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

Psalms 5:3 In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

Psalms 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

### Devotional:

Like any long-term relationship, communication with God takes practice. It may feel clunky at first. But the more we practice hearing God's voice, the more attuned we become to his presence. And when we open ourselves up to hearing from him, we will find that his voice is ever present.

Perhaps this is something like what Paul meant when he wrote to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Our prayers can be an open conversation with God. Ask him questions and be open to his answers. Communication with God does not need to be a one-sided monologue. By cultivating a practice of regularly speaking with God, asking him questions, and listening for his answers, we open ourselves to a deeper intimacy with him.

Today, take a moment to reflect on the ways God may be speaking to you. Are you listening with an open heart? Can you identify moments when he has whispered to you through creation, through a song or in a well-timed smile, or everyday experiences? Consider the possibility that God's messages are everywhere, and that all we need is a little faith, patience, and curiosity to receive them.

### As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

*Father, where have I been hearing your voice in unexpected ways, and how can I better tune into it?*

*Jesus, how do you want to guide me in learning to listen to you more clearly?*

*Spirit, help me to recognize your presence in the everyday moments of life. Teach me how to hear you in nature, in the day-to-day of life, and my own heart.*

If you enjoyed this reading plan, we invite you to listen to the **Exploring More** podcast series it is based upon: Hearing from God, Season 4, episodes 14-18.



**Other Zoweh Resources that Touch on Hearing God's Voice:**

